May 18/29

Dear Sir

I herewith return, with my best acknowledgements, the Score of Beethoven, & you were so kind as to lend me a short time since: pray have the goodness to send me a line to say that you have read them safely - as I am always very particular in returning any Music to the persons that are obliging enough to lend me it by my friends.

The last time I had the pleasure of meeting you at the Choral Harmonists, you hinted a wish that I would bring out a new Edition of Beethoven's Grand Mass in D: - at that very time, the work was already in hand, & I have since completed it -

In my opinion, it is one of the most original, elaborate & extraordinary pieces of Counterpoint that was ever produced: it was published yesterday by my Son Alfred, and, in the new Edition, I flatter myself that you will perceive I have spared no pains or expence to render it more acceptable to the generality of performers, by laying out the vocal parts

in a more regular & clear
and by bringing the passages in the Organ or Piano
Forte Accompaniment better under the hand,
so as to combine fulness of effect with facility
of execution — no easy task with Beethoven's
Compositions, and more especially with this
particular Mass, — which, I dare say, is one of the most
complicated pieces of Sacred Music that ever
was conceived — and the arrangement of which
has proved one of the most difficult tasks I
ever undertook to accomplish.
I know that it is true, however, I
trust that it will be found, in its present
form, comparatively easy of performance in
Choral Societies, Amateur Choral Societies,
Provincial Festivals, private Parties &c &c
for practice together — & other places where
any attempt to bring it forward in its former
confused obscure, almost illegible state, would
have been quite useless; and its proper performance
would be effectually precluded by the
Composer, who has been perfectly hopeless.
With repetition of my thanks for your
obliging politeness in lending me the loan of the
Partitions Quartetto &c, I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,
(To J. Bartholomew, Esq.) V. Novello